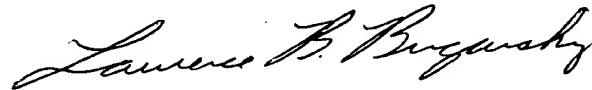


***Remarks***

The sole purpose for the filing of this amendment is to perfect the priority claim of the application. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 371-2589. prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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Version with markings to show changes made

*In the Specification:*

Beginning at page 1, line 4 paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application 09/423,783 filed [November 12, 1999] June 26, 2000 which is a U.S. National Phase application based on International Application PCT/EP97/05251, filed September 24, 1997 which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/719,806, filed September 25, 1996. [and claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. Provisional Application 60/115,920 filed January 14, 1999]. The current application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/795,292 filed January 14, 1999 which is a U.S. National Phase application based on International Application PCT/EP97/05251, filed September 24, 1997 which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/719,806, filed September 25, 1996. The contents of each application are incorporated herein by reference.

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